

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 IOE-00 TRSE-00 /081 W

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P R 251539Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 603

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSH LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0595

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SHUM, AU

SUBJECT: 33RD SESSION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC)

REF: STATE 013714

1. DR. GEORG WEISS OF MFA INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE, WITH WHOM EMBOFF DISCUSSED US INTERESTS IN HRC MEETING AS PER REFTEL, BELIEVES GOA AND USG REMAIN IN FUNDAMENTAL AGREEMENT ON APPROACH TO MAJOR ISSUES BEFORE HRC. HE SAID MP PROFESSOR
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ERMACORA WOULD AGAIN BE GOA DELEGATE BACKSTOPPED BY HIMSELF AT MFA AND ASSISTED IN GENEVA BY MEMBER OF AUSTRIAN PERMANENT MISSION. WEISS, WHO PARTICIPATED IN UN 3RD COMMITTEE IN

NEW YORK BEFORE RETURNING TO MFA, IS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH ISSUES EMBOFF RAISED AND HAD FOLLOWING

COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS MENTIONED REFTEL.

2. AGENDA ITEM 6B. GOA CONTINUES TO BELIEVE COMMERCIAL SANCTIONS ARE NOT MEANS TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL OR SOCIAL ENDS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, OR ELSEWHERE, AND WILL NOT SUPPORT ACTION IN HRC RELATED TO 31ST GA RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT. WEISS THOUGHT DISCOMFORT OVER EXAMINATION OF VETO ISSUE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE OVERRIDING FACTOR IN SOVIET ATTITUDE.

3. AGENDA ITEM 12. WEISS ASSUMES SWEDES WILL NOT PUSH THEIR PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS SINCE THEY STILL BELIEVE IT POSSIBLE TO SECURE CONSENSUS RESOLUTION LIKE THAT ON TORTURE RATHER THAN NARROW VICTORY IN SHOWDOWN VOTE, AT BEST, OR PASSAGE OF BOTH SWEDISH PROPOSAL AND BYELORUSSIAN COUNTER-PROPOSAL (AS OF UNGA KOREA RESOLUTIONS), AT WORST. WEISS SAID SOVIETS IN NEW YORK HAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO HIM THAT SWEDIES HAD NOT PRESSED FOR VOTE SINCE SOVIETS FELT SWEDISH PROPOSAL WOULD HAVE CARRIED

AND THEIRS WOULD NOT.

4. AGENDA ITEM 12B. WEISS THOUGHT SURFACING OF MORE ACTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES IN EE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES COULD INFLUENCE ATTITUDES TOWARD ITEM IN EAST AND WEST. EVENTUALLY, FAIRER GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS ADDRESSED BY HRC COULD RESULT FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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APPLICATION OF 1503 OR OTHER PROCEDURES IN EE CASES, ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY NOT AS SOON AS THIS FEBRUARY/MARCH. WEISS SAID HE DID NOT KNOW IF IT WAS YET POSSIBLE PROCEDURALLY TO RAISE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS OF CSSR AND SOVIET DISSIDENTS AND EIMGRES BUT, EVEN IF IT WERE, AUSTRIANS HAD NOT CONSIDERED WHETHER IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO TRY. HE SUGGESTED WEST EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF HRC MIGHT USEFULLY REVIEW THIS TOPIC.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON IMPLICATIONS, IF ANY, OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS RE HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND USSR FOR 33RD HRC SESSION FOR POSSIBLE USE WITH AUSTRIANS. BUCHANAN

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